

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07187 100806Z

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9361

S E C R E T SEOUL 7187

NODIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG KN KS US

SUBJ: FAMEHY AND KOREA

REF: (A) STATE 223859, (B) SEOUL 6911

1. CHARGE SAW ROK FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-CHIN SEPTEMBER 10 AND CONVEYED GIST OF FAMEHY'S REMARKS AND US REPLY AS OUTLINED REF A. PAK NOTED THAT ROK CONGEN CAIRO HAD ACTED INITIALLY SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORIZATION FROM SEOUL. MINISTER SAID MOFA HAD SENT SEVERAL STRONGLY-WORDED TELEGRAMS TELLING HIM TO FORGET ABOUT GETTING SOMETHING STARTED IN CAIRO.

2. PAK SAID ROK CONGEN REPORTED FAMEHY HAD SAID IN RECENT CONVERSATION THAT US HAD APPROACHED CAIRO SOME TIME AGO SUGGESTING US WOULD APPRECIATE EGYPTIAN GOOD OFFICES FOR GETTING DISCUSSIONS GOING BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. REPORT SAID US THEN WITHDREW THIS SUGGESTION. ACCORDING TO MINISTER, FAMEHY THEN SAID HE HAD NO IDEA IF HIS EFFORT WOULD PRODUCE RESULTS, BUT WAS WILLING TO TAKE INITIATIVE IF SOUTH KOREA ASKED HIM TO.

3. MINISTER SAID EGYPT'S HOSTILE POSITION IN COLOMBO INDICATED THEY WOULD NOT BE AN IMPARTIAL MEDIATOR. HE SAID EGYPT SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE ROK AND WOULD HAVE TO TAKE MORE BALANCED INTERNATIONAL POSITION ON KOREAN QUESTION BEFORE ROK COULD ACCEPT

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SECRET

PAGE 02 SEOUL 07187 100806Z

THEM AS MEDIATOR. ALTERNATIVELY, MINISTER SAID FAMEHY SHOULD

PROVIDE SOME PROOF THAT HE IS TAKING INITIATIVE IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM KIM IL-SUNG. IF SO, ROK COULD CONSIDER GETTING DIALOGUE STARTED, ACCORDING TO MINISTER.

4. MINISTER SAID HE WAS CONSIDERING REPLACING ROK CONGEN IN CAIRO BECAUSE OF WAY HE HAD HANDLED THIS MATTER. HE SAID ALTHOUGH ROK CONGEN'S MOTIVES WERE GOOD, WAY HE HAD HANDLED DISCUSSIONS WAS NOT. FOREIGN MINISTER SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR EILTS GET TOGETHER WITH ROK CONGEN CAIRO ON THIS SUBJECT TO CLARIFY ACCOUNTS CONCERNING EGYPTIAN MEDIATION INITIATIVE.

5. COMMENT: AS INDICATED IN REF B, ROKG VERY RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT GOE INVOLVEMENT IN NORTH-SOUTH KOREAN RELATIONS. ROLE OF SOUTH KOREAN CONGEN SEEMS TO HAVE SO MUDDIED WATERS THAT CONSIDERABLE US EFFORT WILL BE REQUIRED TO CONVINCE ROKG TO ACQUIESCE TO FAMEHY EFFORTS.
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